

Border Indicators Task Force Timeline of Key Events and Accomplishments (DRAFT 4/20/06)

Establishment of BITF

December 2003

The Border 2012 program established the Border Indicators Task Force (BITF) at the National Coordinators Meeting in Matamoros, Mexico, in December 2003. The role of the BITF is to coordinate the generation and use of objective indicators to ensure that the Program “achieve[s] concrete and measurable results while maintaining a long term vision.” Environmental and performance indicators will be used to measure progress under the Border 2012 program and report on changes in environmental and public health conditions along the border.

BITF Meetings and Conference Calls

Initiated in January 2004

The BITF met for the first time (via conference call) in January 2004 to define task force guidelines and identify near term tasks. The following month, the BITF met in Laredo, Texas and again in May 2004 in El Paso, Texas for initial work on environmental health indicators. Through regular monthly conference calls, initiated in October 2004, and meetings in October 2004 (Tijuana, Mexico), December 2004 (Washington, DC) and February 2005 (Ciudad Juarez, Chihuahua, with the Environmental Health Workgroup), the BITF undertook its core work on an indicators strategy and inventory of border indicators, both of which are described below.

Development of Strategy for Indicator Development

Initiated in August 2004

To guide the identification, development, and use of Border 2012 indicators, BITF began developing an indicators strategy in August 2004, as called for in its implementation plan. The objective was to provide Border 2012 coordinating bodies (regional and border-wide workgroups, policy fora and local taskforces) with a conceptual framework, criteria for indicator selection, and a context for understanding border indicators. At the joint BITF-Environmental Health Workgroup in February 2005, BITF refined and focused the strategy and presented it at the National Coordinators meeting in Tucson, Arizona the following month. The strategy report has been peer reviewed and is now being finalized.

Inventory of Border Indicators

Initiated in August 2004

In parallel with the development of the indicators strategy, BITF began identifying potential Border 2012 indicators by creating an inventory of existing indicators. Sources included Border XXI, the Southwest Consortium for Environmental Research and Policy (SCERP), and the Pan American Health Organization (PAHO). BITF generated an initial inventory of over 200 indicators and aligned the indicators with Border 2012 program goals and objectives in August 2004. Over the following year, BITF members and co-chairs refined and revised the inventory with input from EPA Program offices, SEMARNAT, SCERP, PAHO, and Border 2012 coordinating bodies. BITF presented a more focused set of indicators at the March 2005 National Coordinators meeting. By September 2005, BITF had identified an initial set of binational indicators readily available for development, covering portions of the six Border 2012 goals related to reducing water, air, and land contamination, improving environmental health, reducing exposure to chemical releases, and improving environmental performance.

Development of the Border Indicators Report

Initiated September 2005

Based on the refined inventory of indicators, an internal BITF task force set about collecting data, developing graphics, and outlining and drafting a report in the fall of 2005. BITF staff and co-chairs reviewed the draft and released it for peer review and public comment in the spring of 2006. This first *State of the Border Region* indicators report contains 21 border indicators. Following the peer review and public comment period, the report is expected to be finalized and printed in the summer of 2006.

Timeline of Key Events in the Development of Border Indicators

